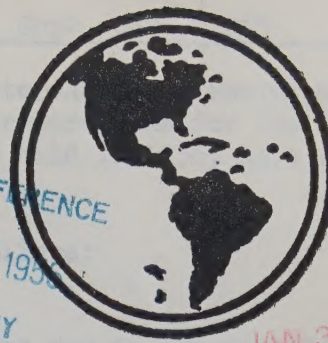


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THE MUNICIPAL DIGEST OF THE AMERICAS

PUBLICACIÓN MENSUAL DE LA COMISIÓN PANAMERICANA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERMUNICIPAL, OBISPO 351, LA HABANA, CUBA. SOLICITADA LA FRANQUICIA POSTAL EN LA ADMÓN. DE CORREOS DE LA HABANA. DIRECTOR: DR. CARLOS M. MORÁN. COMPILADORA Y REDACTORA: BLANCA ROSA SÁNCHEZ. SUSCRIPCIÓN ANUAL: \$1.50. SUSCRIPCIÓN COMBINADA CON LA "REVISTA MUNICIPAL INTERAMERICANA": \$ 3.50 ANUAL.

Vol. XVI

September-October, 1955. 2.1

Nos. 9-10.

Argentina. On October 25, 1955, the provisional government of Argentina issued a Decree under which the greater part of the powers absorbed by the National Executive Power were restored to the Municipal Government of Buenos Aires, and at the time removes the dependency of the municipality with respect to the Ministry of the Interior.

As provided by said Decree the administration of the City Government of Buenos Aires will be in charge of a delegate of the Executive Power to be known as "Municipal Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires" who will depend directly on the Chief Executive of the Nation. The activities of the President in connection with that organ shall be countersigned by the Minister of the Executive Power under whose jurisdiction each matter comes according to its nature.

The Municipal Mayor shall exercise all the powers necessary for the government and municipal administration of the Capital of the Nation, except the approval, review or repeal of the provisions governing the following subjects:

- a) The general budget of expenditures and the estimate of revenue.
- b) The General Ordinance on Taxes and Revenue.
- c) City Planning, the broadening and opening of streets and avenues, the construction of plazas, parks and boulevards.
- d) The annual plans for the construction of public works and services that are financed by extraordinary revenue.
- e) The Building Code. The office of the Mayor may, in properly justified cases, authorize the subsistence or construction of works which due to exceptional circumstances cannot be strictly adjusted to the provisions of the Building Code, always subject to the condition that the essential purposes of said Code are not overlooked.
- f) The Municipal Code of Misdemeanors.
- g) Basic rules covering municipal personnel in the matter of remuneration and social welfare.

A reconsideration of the decisions of the Mayor may be sought when these matters are directly regulated by laws, decrees, ordinances or general orders of the Mayor himself, which may be done five working days after notification has been given and an appeal will be admitted alternately within the same time before the Executive Power through the medium of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. If the appeal is denied or sixty days have elapsed since it was established, a full appeal may be taken by the interested party.

When due to the nature or urgency of the appealed ruling it is essential to the public interest that it be put into effect without delay, which must be stated in the respective resolution, the appeal will not interrupt its being put into effect, except for the power of the Executive Power to order its suspension.



Boletín

THE MUNICIPAL DIGEST OF THE AMERICAS

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Argentine. On October 25, 1955, the provisional government of Argentina issued a decree which transferred the powers of the municipal government of Buenos Aires, and at the same time moved the dependency of the municipality with respect to the Ministry of the Interior.

As provided by said Decree the administration of the City Government of Buenos Aires will be in charge of a delegate of the Executive Power to be known as "Intendant Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires" who will depend directly on the Chief Executive of the Nation. The activities of the President in connection with that organ shall be countermanded by the Minister of the Executive Power under whose jurisdiction each matter comes according to its nature.

The Municipal Mayor shall exercise all the powers necessary for the government and municipal administration of the Capital of the Nation, except the approval, review or repeal of the provisions governing the following subjects:

- The general budget of expenditures and the estimate of revenues.
- The General Ordinance on Taxes and Revenue.
- City Planning, the proceeding and opening of streets and avenues, the construction of plazas, parks and boulevards.
- The annual plans for the construction of public works and services that are financed by extraordinary revenue.
- The Building Code. The office of the Mayor may, in properly justified cases, authorize the substitution or construction of works which due to exceptional circumstances cannot be strictly adjusted to the provisions of the Building Code, always subject to the condition that the essential purpose of said Code are not overlooked.
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When due to the nature or urgency of the appealed ruling it is essential to the public interest that it be put into effect without delay, which must be stated in the respective resolution, the appeal will not interrupt the action put into effect, except for the power of the Executive Power to order its suspension.

Brazil. Dr. Ives de Oliveira, an active member of the Inter-American Municipal Organization at Salvador, State of Bahia, advises us that preparations for the IV National Congress of Municipalities which is expected to be held in 1956, have started with great enthusiasm.

Six subjects will be discussed at this meeting, as follows:

1. Municipal Autonomy. Regime of Local Charters.
2. Municipal Finances. Payment of the quotas provided for in the Constitution for the benefit of the municipalities.
3. Municipal Planning.
4. Municipal Administration (Operação Município).
5. Inter-Administrative relations, municipal consortiums and agreements.
6. Municipal Charters. Reexamination.

As can be seen by the subjects to be discussed in this agenda, we are sure that this IV Congress will render a brilliant and beneficial task in favor of the Brazilian municipalities.

The Organization Committee is presided over by Osorio Nunes, President of the Deliberative Council of the "Associação Brasileira de Municípios" which has its seat at Avenida Almirante Barroso 2 - 3, sala 301, Rio de Janeiro, D.F.

---- According to information received from the Brazilian Board of Advisors on Public Administration, several fellows of the Municipal Council of Belo Horizonte have gone to the United States to study Municipal Administration in a theoretical and practical manner. It is expected that this will be the first of several groups that will receive that training.

It is also reported that Dr. Benedicto Silva, of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, is given a series of lectures on introduction to Public Administration in the courses on Regional Administration that is being given at Belem in cooperation with the Superintendence of the Amazon Valley. Forty students are taking these courses the majority of whom are university graduates.

Comments have also been made on the success attained by the School of Business Administration which began on September 13, 1956 and which is now in its fourth intensive course. From fifty to sixty persons have matriculated for each course the majority of whom hold a university degree and are sent by their respective employers.

This School has been the pioneer in Brazil of the case method. This is a system in which the participants discuss the case under consideration while the professor merely supervises the debates.

Colombia. The City of Santa Marta, Capital of the Magdalena Department, a city that was founded in 1525, has made great progress and it is expected will continue to do so due to the foresight of its municipal authorities who not only act efficiently but try to obtain the cooperation of the Departamental and National governments.

Among the recent works constructed by the City are the following: Garbage Disposal, the construction of a Modern Market, the lighting and embellishment of several avenues and what is most important, the creation and organization of the office of the city's Master Plan.

The Departamental Government has cooperated in the construction of a bathing establishment at Rodadero de Caira, as well as on the highway leading thereto and

has broadened the avenue that leads to Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino, the last home of the Liberator Simon Bolivar.

The Municipal Government has looked after communication routes; improvements have been made in the harbor, docks, etc., so that it will serve international commerce; highways are being constructed which will connect that city with the rest of the country, besides the construction of the Atlantic Railway that crosses ten Departments located in rich cattle and agricultural regions, facilitating the transportation of interdepartamental goods and freight for internal and external commerce.

Also the technical plans for the construction of a Hydro-Electric Plant have been completed and necessary steps are being taken for financing this construction which will undoubtedly benefit the city.

Cuba. The National Government is constructing several works of positive benefit for the Cuban municipalities. Thus we have the construction of highways that follow a general plan throughout the nation; the reconstruction of several streets; the construction and lighting of broad avenues, specially in the City of Marianao and Habana; the construction of several waterworks and the enlargement and improvement of those now existing in several cities and towns. Likewise loans have been made to several municipalities that have applied for the same, for the purpose of making improvements in their localities.

--- When the First Aid Station at Wajay was inaugurated six establishments of this kind will exist under the Municipal Administration of Marianao. It is the purpose of its Mayor, Mr. Francisco Orue, to have each borough of his city have such establishment.

In Mayor Orue's plans for his administration we find that the following has been accomplished: the construction of parks and children's playgrounds; in fire fighting services: a new fire engine has been purchased, uniforms and personal equipment for the firemen and the construction of a new central firehouse in the Second District of the City of Marianao; the Municipal Police has been supplied with new uniforms and personal equipment; and in cultural matters, a Chair on Martiana (history and activities of José Martí) has been created for the first time in a Cuban municipality, the same to be located at the Municipal Library and to be in charge of University Professor Dr. Pablo F. Lavin.

--- The City of Habana can very well be proud of its "Jacobo de Plazaola Municipal Farm" recently established wherein many exotic plants are grown as well as plants and crops of scientific and economic interest. The studies that have been made on different varieties of soya beans have led to a variety known as "Soya-Cuba" which is in large demand in the United States. This experimental farm is located at Chorrera del Calvario, Municipal District of Habana, its Director being Mr. Pedro Calzadilla. Besides growing plants and experimental crops, information is distributed by it as well as seeds to all persons who seek the same. The organization maintains contact and exchange of information with similar institutions not only of Cuba but those established abroad from which important donations have been received.

It is the purpose of the Municipality of Habana to collaborate with the plans for agricultural diversification which the National Government has under consideration through the Ministry of Agriculture by offering the results of the research and experiments carried on at the Municipal Farm (Granja Agrícola Municipal).

Chile. The University of Chile is planning for the construction of the University City in the near future. To this end proper steps are being taken to purchase Ce-

rrò Blanco and adjacent properties, the plan including the embellishment of said hill which is located near Santiago on the slopes of which a slum exists. At the same time the municipal authorities of Santiago are approaching the Minister of Public Works and the Housing Corporation in order to solve rapidly the place where the people living in that slum shall be placed, this being considered a very serious political and social problem.

--- The Statutes of Municipal Employees of Chile as well as the Law of Organization and Powers of the Municipalities provide for the technical preparation of the municipal personnel. In view of the foregoing the Ministry of the Interior has ordered that the courses for the training of the municipal personnel referred to in the Statutes of the Municipal Employees shall be those provided or at present existing at the Institute or the School of Political Science of the University of Chile. The diplomas and grades granted by those institutions will be entered on the personal record of the municipal employees or of those that may be appointed in the future. Likewise the said order, contained in a decree, provides that the Institute and the School are included among the establishments that may receive subsidies from the municipalities in order that they may give preferential attention to said courses, and to lectures and seminars regarding municipal administration and the laws and regulations that should be applied in connection therewith, as well as to receive subsidies or subscriptions to their magazines or publications dedicated to local administration or municipal legislation.

Later the Institute of Political and Administrative Sciences has decided to create a special course for the municipal employees of the whole nation and necessary arrangements are being made so that the class hours will not conflict with the working hours and so that in that way all the personnel interested in attending said course may do so.

--- In accord with the Board of Planning and Coordination of Public Works and the Planning Division, a decree has been issued which indicates the regions into which the country will be divided for the purpose of planning, the same being as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Region I | Province of Tarapacá. |
| Region II | Province of Antofagasta. |
| Region III | Provinces of Atacama and Coquimbo. |
| Region IV | Provinces of Aconcagua, Valparaíso and Santiago. |
| Region V | Provinces of O'Higgins, Colchagua, Curicó, Talca, Maule and Linares. |
| Region VI | Provinces of Ñuble, Concepción, Arauco and Bío-Bío. |
| Region VII | Provinces of Malleco, Cautín and Valdivia. |
| Region VIII | Provinces of Osorno, Llanquihue, Chiloé and Aysén, plus the territories of the Southern Arm of Lake San Martín less the Guayaneco Archipelago. The seat of the Regional Public Works Board will be the City of Puerto Montt. |
| Region IX | Province of Magallanes, excluding the zone on the Southern Arm of San Martín Lake, but including the Guayaneco Archipelago. |
| Region X | The Chilean Antarctic Territory. |

--- The National Conference of Municipalities, an active member of our Organization will have its organ of publicity, the "Revista Municipal". We are awaiting with interest this new publication on municipal matters which will serve to make closer the bonds between the Chilean municipalities through the information on their activities and the enthusiasm and success with which the National Conference of Municipalities takes an interest in municipal affairs.

--- In order that the municipalities may directly intervene in different matters in connection with the collective urban mobilization of Santiago and adjacent municipal-

ities, the Government has just created a Traffic Council. Said Council has been set up for the purpose of advising the Department of Highway Transportation and Public Traffic on its functions in the matter of collective mobilization; to handle all matter in that connection which the Government may decide to submit to its consideration and to coordinate the activities of all the authorities or organization which under the laws or regulations have jurisdiction to handle these matters of collective mobilization. All the decisions or recommendations of the Council shall be submitted to the proper authority through the medium of the Under Secretariat of Transportation of the Ministry of Economy.

The Council shall be honorary in character and shall be made up by the Intendente of Santiago, who shall preside over the same; the Director of the Department of Highway Transportation and Public Traffic, as Vice President; the mayors of Santiago, Providencia, Ñuñoa, San Miguel, La Cisterna, Las Condes, Quinta Normal and Conchalí; the Director of Traffic of Santiago; the General Director of the Chilean Collective Transportation System; the President of the General Union of Bus Owners and a Director of the Taxi Operators Union.

Likewise, the city of Santiago has taken steps through the proper authorities to see that the study of the bill providing for a Traffic Code presented to the National Congress be hastened in order that it may be enacted as a law of the Republic.

El Salvador. On July 15th last the official inauguration of the National School of Public Administration of El Salvador was held. In the creation of this School which is the culmination of the interest shown by the Government of El Salvador in providing the public employees of that country with adequate technical training, the United Nations have collaborated. The preliminary study of the project was in charge of Dr. Enrique Tejera-Paris, Director of ESAPAC, in Costa Rica, where Dr. Rodolfo Napoleón Velasco received special training. Dr. Alberto López Gallegos, Professor of ESAPAC was designated by the United Nations to make a final study for this School which will handle the middle and lower grades. As adviser to the Division and Professor of Organization and Methods, Mr. Alexander Morgado Mattos, an official of DASP, in Brazil and a Professor of the Brazilian School of Public Administration has been contracted by the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations.

Panamá. During the second fortnight of last May the II Congress of Civic Societies of the Suburbs of the Capital District was held.

The resolutions adopted were briefly on the following subjects:

1. To request of the proper authorities the adoption of essential measures for carrying out the project of waterworks and sewerage of the suburban boroughs of the City of Panama.
2. To recommend to the Municipal Council of the Capital District and to the Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Public Health that they solve the problem of drinking water for the communities of the Capital District that are outside of the project for waterworks and sewerage made for the suburban boroughs of the City of Panama.
- 2A. To supplement the services of Unidad Sanitaria de Rio Abajo; to create and improve the services of Public Health and Social Welfare; to recommend to the National Red Cross that it augment the services it is rendering and to ask it to cooperate with the Permanent Action Committee on initiatives and powers created by the Second Congress, in the study and preparation of plans for achieving the purposes mentioned hereunder.
3. To recommend to the Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Public Health, to cooperate with technical direction and labor in the work of constructing septic

tanks and sewage collectors; the creation of a corps of inspectors to oversee said construction as well as to recommend to the dwellers in suburban areas that in case of difficulties between neighbors due to the overflowing of the waters of the septic tanks in the gutters or in yards due to the impermeability of the soil or because of the relatively small size of the lots they cooperate in the solution of the problem by furnishing the material necessary for the construction of collectors for said overflow.

4. To recommend the following sanitary measures: To the communities: the use of trash deposits; acquisition of portable residential burners at places where it is not possible to collect the garbage by the proper vehicles; in suburban boroughs, to abstain from throwing trash into the street. To the National Government : to improve the equipment and personnel for the disposal of garbage and for the maintenance and cleaning of drains; the cleaning of private lots as well as to start a campaign so that they be planted in grass; that budgetary items for the Department of Public Health be increased so as to be able to intensify the campaign of spraying insecticides in communities outside of the capital city; that a systematic campaign of an intensive nature be carried on through the Ministry of Agriculture against pack animals in agricultural communities, and that greater support be given to the police and sanitary authorities in order that they may better carry on the duties entrusted to them. To the Institute of Economic Development is recommended to carry out its commitment of eliminating the lagoon that affects the Concepción community. To the Chief Executive of the Capital District: that he reestablish the "Sanitary Month" with the cooperation of the national and municipal authorities in the different communities. Finally it was recommended that the several sanitary activities of places beyond the city depend absolutely on a Municipal Health Department, with sufficient personnel and equipment.
5. To request the Mayor and the Municipal Council to exhort and cooperate with the National Government and the autonomous organizations in the adoption of a full low cost housing program, following the urbanization plan of the "Instituto de Fomento Económico" (IFE) (Institute of Economic Development) in the Francisco Arias Paredes Borough and in accord with the plans at present being carried out by the Master Plan Commission of the city. To request of the proper authorities the immediate construction of sidewalks in the suburban districts of the Capital of the Republic and to request the property owners to take care of their lots and keep them clean. To request the Municipal Council, the Master Plan Commission and the Municipal Engineering Office immediately to draw up the zoning plans for the city. To request the Traffic Division and the National Guard to see to the fulfilment of the regulations that oblige public transportation companies to render continuous service twenty four hours a day; to fix the minimum time for running their routes; to identify the buses by a Route Number duly illuminated at night; the service of at least one direct bus on each route to the University at about the time the classes start. To request the Ministry of Public Works or the proper authorities to construct bus stop stations at strategic points, as well as a bus stop at the entrance to the Vista Hermosa Borough with a proper waiting room. To recommend to the Ministry of Education the construction of a National Park, in the area of Old Panama, as well as to discontinue the construction of school houses of old lumber which solve the problem of school rooms only temporarily and deficiently.

To recommend to the Mayor to request the City Council to enact a resolution which will empower the Mayor to grant to any natural or juridical person, with proper guaranties, a concession to clear away the brush and plant grass, for account of the property owners, on all lots or lands that are unimproved and that

bound on the public streets, said resolution to provide the fees to be paid by said property owners. Said concession to be granted pursuant to compensation to be paid by the concessionaire to the City of Panama, consisting of investing 10% of the gross revenue obtained for cleaning and planting the lots, to plant shade trees along the streets and in the city parks, following the orders in connection therewith issued by the Mayor of the District. Likewise to recommend to the Mayor of the Capital District that the proper technical department adopt the necessary measures to improve the lighting outside of the city limits as well as to increase the budgetary appropriations necessary for those purposes in the budget of the year 1956.

6. With regard to education: The official creation of Kindergartens outside of the city limits; the promulgation of a decree on education which will regulate the courses in the night schools for illiterates and minors; to request the National Government to put into effect the United Nations program regarding the training of teachers on Fundamental Education and as an encouragement to use the services of those who have taken said training, as well as to sponsor the establishment of pilot libraries; that the Permanent Action Committee created by Congress establish a popular culture committee composed of the authorities that represent the community and representatives of different youth organizations; the creation of scholastic and agricultural cooperatives as well as others; to provide exemption from taxes on all the material that is acquired for cultural purposes as well as for any functions which may benefit scholastic activities; to request the Ministry of Education to provide the means for an effective study of the respective communities, recommending to the National and Municipal governments and to the University of Panama that they stimulate the detailed and analytical study of the basic characteristics of each nucleus of the suburban areas.

In connection with morality: To ask that the civic associations support the recommendations adopted by the First National Pro-Morals Congress, in order that they be carried out, and to recommend to the National Government the adequate regulation of prostitution and to reestablish the places for temporary arrest.

With regard to recreational activities: That the different urban subdivisions set aside adequate places for school buildings and athletic fields; that the schools under construction be finished and equipped, the same to meet modern conditions necessary for the better development of scholastic activities; that vigilance be provided for the schools that require the same; that recreational centers be established besides clubs which will contribute to elevate the moral, social and cultural standards; that childrens colonies be increased; that public libraries and playgrounds for children be established in suburban communities.
